

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, September 18, 2017

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Sorensen, Howard, Mather, Sauer and Bonebrake present. Chairperson Sorensen presiding.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding the following bids presented by Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture, for the Community Services Building Exterior Windows and Doors Replacement Project: Wolfe Construction - \$158,600.00; Swanson Construction - \$179,000.00; Calacci Construction - \$182,637.00; Frye Builders - \$209,000.00; and Todd Hackett Construction - \$234,929.00. On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the low bid from Wolfe Construction in the amount of \$158,600.00 for the Community Services Building Exterior Windows and Doors Replacement Project. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding allocation of the 38 parking spaces (includes 2 handicap spaces) at the Community Services/DHS Building. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated there are 13 Community Services staff and 40 DHS staff located at the Community Services/DHS Building. Seright suggested a designated space for the custodian. Sorensen stated his recommendation is first come/first serve with no marked space for the custodian. Sorensen stated the rest could park in the lot by the Courthouse or on the street. Sorensen stated he does not feel they have the space to allot for visitor parking. Sauer stated he would recommend first come/first serve to visitors and employees. Howard stated if the County could get the City to remove the meters in front of the building for visitors, then the parking lot could be designated for employees. By consensus, the Board designated all 38 spaces in the Community Services/DHS Building parking lot as first come/first serve for visitors and employees.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, minutes of the September 11, 2017 regular meeting and September 15, 2017 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Bonebrake reported a call asking questions about field tiling which he referred to Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas.

Howard reported a call regarding moving a house which he referred to Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas.

Committee Reports:

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board meeting September 12th.

Mather attended a Decategorization Board meeting September 8th.

Sauer attended an event on September 15th in Waterloo at the Sullivan Brothers Center to honor Iowa soldiers missing in Korea of which four of the soldiers were from Muscatine County.

Discussion was held with Conservation Director Curt Weiss regarding a grant application to Muscatine Health Support Foundation for two Physio-Control LIFEPAK CR Plus AED units with hard shell cases and infant/child electrode pads in the amount of \$4,078.00 less a \$500 match from the Muscatine County Conservation Board. Weiss stated the Muscatine County Conservation Board approved the application. On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board affirmed a grant application to Muscatine Health Support Foundation in the amount of \$3,578.00. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road Projects.

Discussion was held regarding separation payments for Case Managers. Sorensen stated Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber provided information to the Board of the cost of paying each of the three remaining case managers one week of salary for each full year of employment with the County contingent on the employee staying until all necessary paperwork is completed. Sorensen stated the total cost of the separation agreement to the County is \$41,242. Schreiber stated each employee would also be eligible for any accrued vacation, sick and/or comp time still on the books as of their termination date. Schreiber stated the separation payout would be contingent on completion of all necessary paperwork by October 13, 2017 to close out their cases and bill for their hours. Howard stated he is not interested in providing severance pay as it sets precedence for future situations like this that the Board did not create. Anderson-Noel stated the Board did provide separation packages several years ago for employees whose jobs were terminated. Howard stated that was different because the Board created that situation. Sauer stated he agrees with Howard that this is not the County's fault and he is not in favor of a separation payout other than accrued vacation, sick and/or comp time. Sauer stated it sets a bad precedence when it is no fault of the County. In response to a question from Mather about disruption to client services by these employees leaving early, Anderson-Noel stated they are dedicated employees who have tried to make this a smooth transition so it is more about fairness to the employees as they could have left a long time ago leaving the County in a precarious position, but they chose to continue to do their jobs. Bonebrake stated these employees have known since April that their jobs would be eliminated and the County has had job openings these employees should have applied for. Community Services Manager Kathy Anderson-Noel stated those opportunities have not been comparable jobs or pay grades. Mather stated he is interested in a separation agreement because of the disruption to client services by the employees leaving early. A motion was made by Mather, seconded by Sorensen, to approve a separation agreement for the three remaining case managers. Ayes: Mather and Sorensen. Nays: Howard, Sauer and Bonebrake. The motion was defeated.

The Board reviewed health/dental fund balances as of August 31, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

ATTEST:

Susan J. O'Donnell
Second Deputy Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors